We claim:

1   1.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

2   data objects, each data object defining a class of object with at least one attribute, said

3   attribute being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of the attribute, any

4   change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the time of effect

5   of the change in the attribute; and

6   methods which the class can carry out, said methods having an argument which is

7   effective time, said method being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of

8   the method, any change in said method also being stored in the data object along with an indication

9   of the time of effect of the change in the method, execution of said method with a particular time

10   argument utilizing the attributes of the effected data objects and the particular method in effect for

11   the particular time specified.

2.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

          data objects, each data object defining a class of object with at least one attribute, said

3   attribute being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of the attribute, any

4   change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the time of effect

5   of the change in the attribute; and

6   methods which the class can carry out, said methods having an argument which is

7   effective time, execution of said method with a particular time argument utilizing the attributes of

8   the effected data objects in effect for the particular time specified.

1   3.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

2   data objects, each data object defining a class of object with at least one attribute, said

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3   attribute being stored in the database, any change in attribute also being stored in the data object ;

4   and

5   methods which the class can carry out, said methods having an argument which is

6   effective time, said method being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of

7   the method, any change in said method also being stored in the data object along with an indication

8   of the time of effect of the change in the method, execution of said method with a particular time

9   argument utilizing the particular method in effect for the particular time specified.

1   4.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

2   data objects, each data object defining a class of object with attributes, at least one

3   attribute of one data object being stored in the database with an indication of the context of the

4   attribute, any change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the

5   context of the change in the attribute; and

6   methods which the class can carry out, at least one of said methods having an

7   argument which is an indication of context, said method being stored in the database with an

8   indication of the context of the method, any difference in said method also being stored in the data

9   object along with an indication of the context of the difference in the method, a method executed

10 with a particular context argument utilizing the attributes of the effected data objects and the method

11 in effect for the particular context.

1   5.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system as claimed in claim

2   2 wherein the context is a version of an application program, so that by identifying a particular

3   context a different version of the application program runs and gives the user a different vantage

4   point from which to experience the program.

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1   6.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

2   data objects, each data object defining a class of object with attributes, at least one

3   attribute of one data object being stored in the database with an indication of the context of the

4   attribute, any change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the

5   context of the change in the attribute; and

6   methods which the class can carry out, at least one of said methods having an

7   argument which an indication of context, a method executed with a particular context argument

8   utilizing the attributes of the effected data objects in effect for the particular context.

1   7.   An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

2   data objects each defining a class of object with attributes; and

3   methods which the class can carry out, at least one of said methods having an

4   argument which is an indication of context, said method being stored in the database with an

5   indication of the context of the method, any difference in said method also being stored in the data

6   object along with an indication of the context of the difference in the method, a method executed

7   with a particular context argument utilizing the method in effect for the particular context.

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